

New Maritime Administrator meets with Russians

— by Greg Hall, MARAD Office of International Activities director —

Maritime Administrator Sean T. Connaughton led an interagency delegation in consultations with Russian government officials, which were held in St. Petersburg, Russia, Sept. 20-21, 2006.

The two delegations discussed a wide range of maritime transportation policy developments, including seafarer-identity documents and U.S. visa requirements, maritime safety, security, and seafarer training.

Annual consultations are provided for in the bilateral maritime transportation agreement, which was signed by then-Secretary Norman Y. Mineta in 2001.

The first bilateral maritime agreement with the former Soviet Union was signed in 1972. That agreement opened formal trade links between the two countries.

The Russian delegation was led by Alexey Y. Klyavin,

director of the Department of State Policy for Maritime and River Transport in the Ministry of Transport.

During the talks, the leaders of both delegations agreed that there have been significant changes internationally and domestically in

the maritime transportation sector, since the last consultations were held in 2004.

At the close of the meeting, Mr. Connaughton and Mr. Klyavin signed agreed minutes reflecting the positive spirit and substance of the discussions.

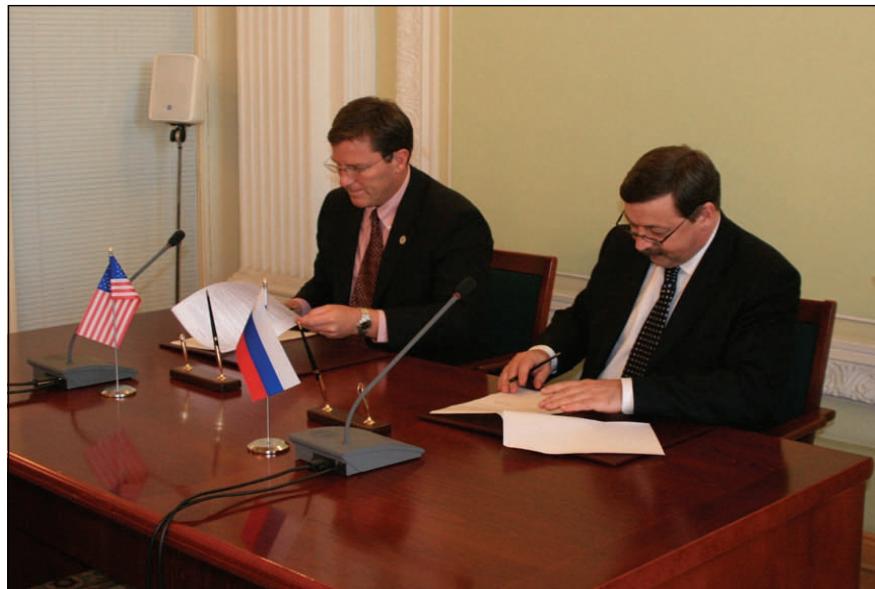


Photo by Lonnie Kishiyama

U.S. Maritime Administrator Sean T. Connaughton (left), and Alexey Y. Klyavin of Russia, sign the agreed minutes of government-to-government maritime policy discussions, which were conducted in St. Petersburg, Russia, Sept. 20-21, 2006.

WELCOME ABOARD!

Say “Hello” to these new MARAD employees who were all hired during the month of September:

Sean T. Connaughton, Maritime Administrator, Headquarters - Sept. 6, 2006

Patrick Lancaster, Supervisory General Engineer, USMMA Sept. 5, 2006

Lisa M. Williams, Director of Human Resources, Headquarters - Sept. 17, 2006